



Department of Pesticide Regulation



Paul E. Helliher
Director

Gray Davis
Governor
Winston H. Hickox
Secretary, California
Environmental
Protection Agency

July 12, 2001

WHS 01-03

TO: County Agricultural Commissioners

SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA POISON CONTROL SYSTEM TEAMS UP WITH THE
DEPARTMENT OF PESTICIDE REGULATION TO IMPROVE PHYSICIAN
REPORTING OF PESTICIDE-RELATED INCIDENTS

For many years the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) has been concerned about compliance with the pesticide reporting law. DPR has teamed up with the California Poison Control System (CPCS) in an attempt to improve physician reporting of pesticide-related illnesses and injuries.

CPCS will offer to fulfill the requirements of Health and Safety Code section 105200 on behalf of physicians who consult poison control. When CPCS reports on behalf of the physician, they will fax information to the local health officer. The health officer will then fill out the required Pesticide Illness Report form and distribute it in the normal manner.

We expect this program to improve both physicians reporting compliance and the timeliness in which you receive notification of an incident. We anticipate receiving more reports of pesticide-related illness and injury using this mechanism for reporting. Hopefully, receiving the notification in a timely fashion will help your investigative process. We appreciate all the work the agricultural commissioners' staff put into the pesticide illness investigations and hope to continue to work together to improve the process.

The attached flyer was developed to help notify physicians of the service provided by CPCS. This flyer was sent to local health officers and we plan to distribute it to physicians. Please feel free to distribute the flyer to local physicians or health clinics.

FLEX YOUR POWER! *The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our Web site at <www.cdpr.ca.gov>.*



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If you have any questions about this project or the pesticide illness surveillance program in general, please contact Susan Edmiston by phone at (916) 445-4278 or by e-mail (sedmiston@cdpr.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

[Original signed by C. Andrews]

Charles M. Andrews, Chief
Worker Health and Safety Branch
(916) 445-4222

Attachment

cc: Mr. Daniel J. Merkley, Agricultural Commissioner Liaison
Ms. Sue Edmiston
Dr. Louise Mehler
Dr. Marylou Verder-Carlos



Reporting Pesticide-Related Illnesses & Injuries

California law requires physicians to report any condition they suspect is related to pesticides.

The California Poison Control System (CPCS) and the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) have teamed up to make the required reporting of pesticide-related conditions easier.

When physicians call CPCS on a pesticide case, CPCS will offer to report the case for them. CPCS will collect some information and fulfill the reporting requirement. No extra phone calls to make and no forms to fill out!

CPCS: 1-800-411-8080

For more information on the reporting program, contact Dr. Louise Mehler (DPR) at 916-445-4190.